

Message Text

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41

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 298296

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, FR, EEC

SUBJECT: RACE-HORSE EXPORTS TO FRANCE

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM LAWYERS FOR THE AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL ALLEGING THAT THE FRENCH THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION (SYNDICAT DES ELEVEURS, 76 AVE. DES CHAMPS ELYSEES, PARIS VIII) IS CONSIDERING PROHIBITING THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-EC BRED HORSES IN ALL BUT "PATTERN" (I.E., MAJOR) RACES. THIS RESTRICTION WOULD FOLLOW A 1974 DECISION BY THE SYNDICAT TO BAR ALL BUT EC-TRAINED HORSES FROM NON-PATTERN RACES, WHICH REDUCED IMPORTS OF HORSES FROM THE U.S. FROM 359 IN 1974 TO 182 IN 1975. THE PROPOSED BAN ON FOREIGN-BRED HORSES WOULD REDUCE IMPORTS TO EVEN LOWER LEVELS.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE SYNDICAT DES ELEVEURS TO DETERMINE WHETHER REPORT IS ACCURATE AND,
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IF IT IS, TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN OVER THE LIKELY

CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR TRADE IN THOROUGHBREDS.

3. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION THE
EMBASSY CAN DEVELOP REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP, IF ANY,
OF THE SYNDICAT DES ELEVEURS TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SYNDICAT IS GRANTED BY THE GOF
SPECIAL OR EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGES TO REGULATE RACING
IN FRANCE, THE RESTRICTION AGAINST NON-EC-TRAINED HORSES
AND THE POSSIBLE RESTRICTION AGAINST NON-EC-BRED
HORSES MAY BE IN VIOLATION OF GATT ARTS. III AND/OR
XVII. ROBINSON

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